

MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WINTHROP HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT #1
WINTHROP HARBOR, ILLINOIS**

January 26, 2009

Minutes of a regular public meeting of the Board of Education of School District Number 1, Lake County, Illinois, held in the Library of North Prairie Junior High School, in said School District at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th of January, 2009.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Jim Leech and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent, Chris Thompson, and Jim Leech. Also present were Principals Ted Brooks, Pat Hodge and Carrie Nottingham, Superintendent Dennis Guiser and Secretary to the Board, Dan Stanley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

November's Students of the Month were congratulated and awarded with a \$20.00 Barnes & Noble gift card. The following students were recognized:

Marcos Luevano IV	Kindergarten
Rebecca Unze	1 st Grade
Cody Hartke	2 nd Grade
Emily January	3 rd Grade
Fredy Munoz	6 th Grade
Carly Hebert	7 th Grade

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Students Stacie Serdar and Corey Lippeth, with the aid of Bill Kaput, presented to the board an assembled Lego Mindstorm robotics kit; one of three kits anonymously donated to the district.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION by Chris Thompson to approve the following consent agenda items; SECOND by Syndy Nugent. On roll call, the following members voted AYE: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent, Chris Thompson, and Jim Leech. MOTION CARRIED.

- A) Approval of the January 26, 2009 Agenda, Minutes from the December 15, 2008 Regular Board of Education Meeting.
- B) Finance Items:
 - a. Expenditure Report for December
 - b. Revenue Report for December
 - c. Treasurer's Report for December

- d. Payment of Bills & Reimbursements for January
- e. Student Activity Reports for December

INFORMATION ITEMS

Dr. Guiser informed the board that he and Pat met with the architect, George Kacan of Fanning & Howey regarding modifications, including shovel ready projects, at Westfield School (new windows, cafeteria, etc.) as the district prepares to close Spring Bluff School. Dr. Guiser stressed the importance of having shovel-ready projects should President Obama's stimulus plan provide funds for District 1. Dr. Guiser indicated that if there is money in the stimulus plan for school improvements, the money will only go to schools with shovel ready plans.

Dr. Guiser discussed the need for Tax Anticipation Warrants (TAW) and that the details will be ready for the next board meeting. The district intends to borrow \$400,000 starting March 1, 2009 to be paid back in full on June 30, 2009. The \$400,000 is down from the prior year's \$750,000 TAW.

Dr. Guiser reviewed with the board the changes in policies 7:50, 7:190, and 5:240 that will be action items on the February board meeting.

Finally, Dr. Guiser informed the board that he would like to offer an Apple purchase program to employees in which they would receive an interest-free loan, paid for by the district, for the purchase of Apple equipment that will be repaid in up to 12 months. An employee could receive anywhere from \$600 - \$2,400 for the loan program. The advantage to the teacher is having the cost of the equipment spread over time. The advantage to the district is having more employees using current technology and sharing it with the students. The only cost to the district would be the interest the district would have earned by having the money in the bank. Tim Hall questioned what if there is a larger participation than expected. Dr. Guiser only expects approximately 10-20 participants in the program, but ensured the board that enough money will be there.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION by Syndy Nugent to accept the anonymous robotics donation, the donation from Bob Thompson, and the donation from Rotary; SECOND by Ray Jordan. On roll call, the following members voted AYE: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent, Chris Thompson, and Jim Leech. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Chris Thompson to approve the adoption of Policy 6:60 on Curriculum Content, Policy 7:10 on Equal Educational Opportunities, and Policy 7:20 on Harassment; SECOND by Tim Hall. On roll call, the following members voted AYE: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent, Chris Thompson, and Jim Leech. MOTION CARRIED.

Ray Jordan raised concerns regarding the school's policy on detention and homework. Pat Hodge explained the goal of the policy is to change the behavior of the student. Carrie Nottingham shared that

most homework problems are corrected after the first detention. The board continued to discuss the issue, but no formal action was made.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Guiser's Friday Phone Call provided that there are five (5) people running for four (4) open seats in the April 7th election. Julie Leech, Rick Lambert, Chris Thompson, Kristin Heiny, and Jim Leech have all submitted nomination petition packets.

The passport fair, in which anyone can come in and take care of all the steps required to receive a passport, has added more dates and locations.

Pat Hodge and Ted Brooks are developing a Rockin' Reader contest in which winners will receive prizes purchased from the donation by Bob Thompson and Abbott Laboratories.

The science fair winners for 6th grade were Corey Lippeth, Mikaela Gehrig, Sam Nearing, and Reid Edwards. For 7th grade, Noell Carrillo took 1st place, Jack Tenbusch took 2nd, Allegra Codamon took 3rd, and Tori Kiesel received honorable mention. For 8th grade, 1st place went to Courtney VanDreese, 2nd place to Annie Gillespie, and 3rd place to Stacie Serdar. Allysa Lambert and Caity Lucy received honorable mention. The People's Choice award went to Jacob Campbell.

The district received notice that the waiver application to modify the school code to allow students to be in attendance on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12th, 2009, and not in attendance on President's Day, February 16th, 2009 has been accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Syndy Nugent to adjourn at 8:14 P.M.; SECOND by Gene Ellison. On roll call, the following members voted AYE: Gene Ellison, Tim Hall, Ray Jordan, Dave Lucy, Syndy Nugent, Chris Thompson, and Jim Leech. MOTION CARRIED.

These minutes were transcribed by Dan Stanley.

James W. Leech
School Board President
Winthrop Harbor School District #1
Winthrop Harbor, Illinois

ATTEST:

Christine Thompson
Board of Education
Winthrop Harbor School District #1
Winthrop Harbor, Illinois